

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 21, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Virgil Moore, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Legislative Liaison; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler with Commissioners Barowsky, Wright, Trevey, McDermott, Power, and Budge participating.

LEGISLATION

New Bill Analysis and Discussion

Sharon Kiefer briefed the Commission on the following:

House Joint Resolution (HJR 2) a constitutional amendment, right to hunt, fish, trap and harvest (Appendix 41, Exhibit 23).

08-24 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to monitor HJR 2 and direct staff to answer questions in an appropriate fashion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

HB 531 Negotiated Rulemaking (replaces HB 459) (Appendix 41, Exhibit 24). Ms. Kiefer noted that staff articulated Commission opposition to HB 459 to the non-legislative sponsors. Staff met with the non-legislative sponsors and made recommendations to improve HB 459, which were incorporated into HB 531 along with the concerns of other parties.

08-25 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to continue monitoring of HB 531. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Previously Discussed Bills

Ms. Kiefer briefed the Commission on the status of SB 1391, HB 515, HB 467, SB1373, SB 1374, and HB 472. Ms. Kiefer referenced a copy of the testimony provided to the House Resources and Conservation Committee regarding HB 515 (Appendix 41, Exhibit 25).

Ms. Kiefer noted that SB 1391 – Domestic Cervide Council will have a hearing in the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee on February 26th. Department staff will work with Department of Agriculture on collaborative statements to offer to the Committee.

HB 467 – Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act creating a state income tax credit for voluntary conservation easement. Staff will publicly testify in support of this bill when it comes up for a hearing.

Department Bills SB 1280 through SB 1285 at this time have not been scheduled for a bill hearing.

The Budget setting date has been set back to March 3rd.

Staff will give a presentation on grizzly bears and winter feeding to the Senate Resources and Conservation Committee on February 25th. A presentation on sage-grouse will be on March 3rd.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary